AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

25. (Currently Amended) A method of processing ~~two or more groups of~~first and second work pieces, comprising the steps of:

- providing a work piece location;

- positioning a ~~number~~plurality of clamp devices around the work piece location in order to clamp ~~each of~~ the ~~two or more groups of~~first and second work pieces at different clamping sites thereon, the work pieces having substantially common peripheries and the clamp devices extending inwardly toward the work piece location;

- providing each clamp device with a lower clamp unit and an upper clamp unit;

- providing the lower clamp unit of each clamp device with a pair of lower jaws, each lower jaw having a distal end for engaging a work piece and a proximal end, at least one of the lower jaws being pivotally mounted near its proximal end for rotational movement about a first pivot axis ~~movable~~ relative to the other of the lower jaws between a clamped position and an unclamped position;

- actuating each of the lower clamp units to clamp ~~each of a first group of~~ the first work piece ~~work pieces~~ by pivoting said ~~moving~~ at least one ~~of the~~ pivotally mounted lower jaw ~~jaws relative to the other of the lower jaws~~ between the clamped and unclamped positions, firstly to separate the adjacent distal ends of the lower jaws of each lower clamp unit in order for the lower clamp units to receive ~~each of~~ the first work piece~~group of work pieces~~, and secondly to clamp the distal ends of the adjacent lower jaws of each lower clamp unit against a corresponding location

near a peripheral region of the first work piece ~~each of the first group of work pieces~~ at a first elevation;

- providing the upper clamp unit of each clamp device with a pair of upper jaws, each upper jaw having a distal end for engaging a work piece and a proximal end, ~~at least~~ one of the upper jaws being pivotally mounted near its proximal end for rotational movement about a second pivot axis ~~movable~~ relative to the other of the upper jaws between a clamped position and an unclamped position;

- mounting the other of the upper jaws on the pivotally mounted lower jaw for travel therewith;

- actuating each of the upper clamp units to clamp ~~each of a second group of work pieces~~the second work piece by pivoting ~~moving at least one of~~ the pivotally mounted upper jaws ~~relative to the other of the upper jaws~~ between the clamped and unclamped positions, thirdly to separate the adjacent distal ends of the upper jaws of each upper clamp unit in order for the upper clamp units to receive ~~each of~~ the second ~~group of work pieces~~work piece, and fourthly to clamp ~~each~~ the distal ends of the adjacent upper jaws of each upper clamp unit against a corresponding location near a peripheral region of ~~of the second group of work pieces~~the second work piece at a second elevation, the second elevation being ~~oriented~~ relatively above the first elevation.

26. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 25, further comprising the step of rendering the upper clamp unit inoperable during the actuation of the lower clamp unit.

27. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 25, further comprising the step of conducting at least one process operation on ~~each of the first group of work pieces~~the first work piece.

28. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 25, further comprising the step of conducting at least one process operation on ~~each of the second group of work pieces~~the second work piece.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 25, further comprising the step of offsetting one of the clamp units at an angle relative to the other of the clamp units on selected ones of said clamp devices.

32. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 25, further comprising the steps of providing a support frame member adjacent the work piece location, mounting a lower anchor portion on the support frame member and pivotally mounting a first of the lower jaws of the lower clamp unit for movement relative to the lower anchor portion.

33. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 32, further comprising the step of mounting a second lower jaw to the lower anchor portion.

34. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 33, further comprising the step of changing the first and second lower jaws to provide each of the first and second lower jaws with different templates for different groups of work pieces.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim ~~35~~32, further comprising the steps of mounting an upper anchor portion on the support frame member and pivotally mounting said one ~~a second~~ of the upper jaws for movement relative to the upper anchor portion.

37. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 36, further comprising the step of changing the first and second upper jaws to provide each of the first

and second ~~lower~~ upper jaws with different templates for different groups of work pieces.

38. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 25, wherein the actuating steps include the step of actuating a linear or rotary, hydraulic or pneumatic drive member.

39. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 38, further comprising the step of providing a controller for controlling the drive member, and operating the controller in:

- a first phase to actuate the lower clamp unit between unclamped and clamped positions;

- a second phase to actuate the second upper clamp member between the unclamped position and an inoperative position ~~positions~~; and

- a third phase to actuate the upper clamp unit between the unclamped and clamped positions.